AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

22. (canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A passive component for a bus system, comprising:

a bus interface to connect to a bus;

a serial interface to serially read out and read in data;

a data memory with an output area to store data read in via the bus interface and to be read out via the serial interface;

an input area to store data read in via the serial interface and to be read out via the bus interface;

a control device to control the transmission and storage of data;

a detection device to detect the status of the output area and of the input area and provide corresponding status information, which status information is used as the basis for reading data into the output area and reading data out of the input area via the bus interface when the bus system is connected; and ~~The passive component as claimed in claim 1, further comprising~~

a comparative device to periodically compare the status information with corresponding status information of an active component of a connected bus system, the control device controlling the reading in and reading out of data on the basis of the periodic comparison.

24. (Currently amended) The passive component as claimed in claim ~~2~~23, a data packet is not read out of a corresponding output area of the active component and into the output area until the output area is ready to receive the data packet.

25. (Currently amended) The passive component as claimed in claim ~~3~~24, further comprising a buffer to buff a data packet which is to be read out of the output area via the serial interface.

26. (Currently amended) The passive component as claimed in claim ~~3~~24, wherein the data packet is not read into the input area via the serial interface until a corresponding input area of the active component is ready to receive the data packet.

27. (Currently amended) The passive component as claimed in claim ~~5~~26, further comprising a buffer to buffer the data packet, to be read into the input area via the serial interface, if ~~the~~ an input area of the active component is not yet ready to receive it.

28-30. (canceled)

31. (Currently amended) An active component for exchanging data with a passive component, comprising:

a bus interface to connect a bus;

a data memory with an output area to store data in the output area of the passive component and to be read out via a serial interface;

an input area of data which is read out of an input area of the passive component;

a control device to control the transmission and the storage of data;

a detection device to detect the status of the output area and of the input area and provide status information, which status information is used by the active component, as the basis for reading data from the passive element into the input area via the bus interface and reading data out of the output area to the passive component; and ~~The active component as claimed in claim 9, further comprising~~

a comparative device to periodically compare the status information with corresponding status information of the passive component, the control device controlling the reading in and reading out of the data on the basis of the periodic comparison.

32-37. (canceled)

38. (Currently amended) A method for reading serial data into and out of a bus system which comprises a passive component, forming a slave station, with a serial interface and a data memory, which has an output area for reading out data via the serial interface and comprises an input area, and an active component, forming a master station, with a data memory which has an output area and an input area, comprising:

transferring data at the request of the active component via the passive component;

detecting the status of the output areas and of the input areas and providing status information corresponding to the status, which status information is used as the basis for the transfer of the data of the output area of the active component into the output area of the passive component, and the transfer of the data of the input area of the passive component into the input area of the active component; and ~~The method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising~~

comparing the status information of the output areas of the active and passive components and periodically comparing the status information of the input areas of the active and passive components, and reconciliation of the output areas and the input areas carried out on the basis of comparison.

39-42. (canceled)